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**Appln No. 10/618,033**  
**Amdt date October 1, 2007**  
**Reply to Office action of May 31, 2007**

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Please amend claims 1 and 18.

1. (Currently Amended) A device comprising:  
an elongated, generally flexible tubular body having an axis, a proximal end, a distal end and a lumen longitudinally extending therethrough; and  
a dilating tip slidably mounted on the distal end of the tubular body and comprising a segmented surface that is generally transverse to the axis of the tubular body, and a generally rigid tube extending distally from the segmented surface and having a sharp distal end adapted to puncture tissue;  
wherein distal movement of the tubular body relative to the dilating tip exerts a force on the segmented surface to thereby open the segmented surface.
2. (Original) A device according to claim 1, wherein the elongated tube is generally cylindrical.
3. (Original) A device according to claim 1, where the segmented surface comprises two or more segments.
4. (Original) A device according to claim 1, where the segmented surface comprises three or more segments.
5. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 1, wherein the dilating tip further comprises a ring mounted in surrounding relation to the tubular body.